

Approved: May 1, 2014

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, March 6, 2014
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Kris Dighe, Lydia Han, Ming Hu, Amanda Matheny, Clark Reed and Lea Rosenbohm

Commissioners Absent: Steve Cardon, Alicia Hosmer

M&C Liaison:

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management;

Ryan Marcheschi, City Resident

John Mosheim, City Resident

Scott Clausen, City Resident

Herb Winkler, City Resident

Ben Parry, City Resident

Commissioner Orientation

Prior to the meeting, Mark Charles briefed new Commissioners Hu and Matheny on the background and procedures used by the Commission.

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm by Chair Reed.

Approval of the December 5, 2013 and February 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Dighe moved and Commissioner Becker seconded the approval of the December 5, 2013 meeting minutes previously deferred to the March meeting. The motion passed 4-0-3.

There are no meeting minutes for the January 2014 meeting since a quorum did not occur.

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Rosenbohm seconded a motion to approve the February 6, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion failed 3-0-4. The February meeting minutes will be reconsidered at the April meeting.

Multi-City Environmental Board Meeting in Bowie – March 12, 2014

Chair Reed agreed to attend the Bowie meeting and represent the Commission.

Maryvale Stream Clean Up

The Commission discussed preliminary plans for the stream clean up at Maryvale Park on Saturday, April 5 from 9-12. Commissioner Dighe moved and Commissioner Matheny seconded a motion to invite the neighborhood and the Mayor and Council to the clean-up event. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Environmental Excellence Awards

The Commission considered several nominees for environmental excellence awards. Chair Reed moved and Commissioner Dighe seconded a motion to make an award to the Kol Shalom Synagogue for its green building and grounds. The motion passed 7-0-0.

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Commissioner Rosenbohm moved and Commissioner Dighe seconded a motion to make an award to former Commissioner Beri Kravitz for her work in environmental outreach. The motion passed 7-0-0. Commissioner Dighe moved and Commissioner Rosenbohm seconded a motion to make an award to former Commissioner Tolulope “Tolu” Odunlami for his work in helping to shape Rockville’s green building program. The motion passed 7-0-0. These awards will be presented at the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, April 21, 2014. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Environmental Professionals Climate Change Lecture

Commissioners discussed plans for co-sponsoring and promoting a climate change public lecture on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 6:30-8:00 at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. Topics included refreshments, advertising and outreach materials on the Commission itself. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Environmental Management Report

Mark Charles reported that the City has been notified of a \$1.2 million dollar Chesapeake Trust grant (administered by Maryland Department of Natural Resources) for stream restoration work in Dogwood Park and Watts Branch.

Commissioners Becker, Matheny, Rosenbohm and Hu volunteered to attend the Earth Month/Earth Day Proclamation ceremony at the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, March 31, 2014.

The Commission set screening times for the film *Trashed* as Friday at 7:00 pm in the Mayor and Council Chambers and Saturday at 1:00 and 3:00 at the Rockville library. Subsequently, it was discovered that Hometown Holidays will not begin until 2:00 pm and that the library is only available until 5:30 pm. Therefore, the screening time was altered to 3:30 pm.

Finally, Mr. Charles pointed out that Committee meetings need to be scheduled through his office and that the Committees need a reservation to meet in City Hall.

State Proposed Community Solar Legislation

Chair Reed attended the Mayor and Council meeting on February 28, 2014 and requested an endorsement for the Commission to testify before House and Senate Committees in favor of proposed community solar legislation. The Mayor and Council agreed. Chair Reed, along with other representatives from City’s in Central Maryland, testified before the Senate Committee on March 4, 2014. Arthur Ray of Environmental Management testified before the House Committee on Thursday, March 6, 2014.

New Business Item

Commissioner Dighe attended a March 4, 2014 meeting with the Mayor on the Commission’s accomplishments and initiatives.

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Other new business included the following announcements:

- Chair Reed passed out information on a “Biggest Loser” energy competition (over a 12 month period) sponsored by U.S. EPA. The competition involves making energy improvements to a single City building and there is no fee to participate. The deadline for entering the competition is May 16. Reed suggested that Rockville challenge other Multi-City jurisdictions. Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Dighe seconded a motion to pursue this opportunity. The motion passed 7-0-0.
- Residents Ryan Marcheschi and Stephanie Reddick, of the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee plan to meet with Fleet Services Manager Pat Stroud to discuss short, mid and long range recommendations for alternative fuel vehicles for the City
- Commissioner Hu and resident Ben Parry are looking into organizing a solar home makeover initiative which might entail a free of deep discount for selected homeowners.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:15 pm.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, April 3, 2014**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room of the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend.